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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS¹

1-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting a lottery, comprising:

distributing a portable memory device to a user, said portable memory device comprising an input-output unit, a counter configured to output count data timer, and a memory configured to store timing said count data, wherein said portable memory device is configured to interface with a data collection computer such that said count timing data stored in said portable memory device is read by said data collection computer to determine a time a user of said portable memory device entered lottery information into said portable memory device;

reading, from said portable memory device by said data collection computer at a first time T_1 , a first count N_1 ~~associated with~~ output by said timer counter at said first time;

determining a frequency and a period of said counter;

storing ~~first timing data associated with said portable memory device,~~ in said data collection computer, ~~the first timing data comprising the~~ said first count N_1 , said a first frequency f_1 , a first said period t_1 , and the said first time T_1 ;

recording said lottery information input by said user and an event associated count N_i in said portable memory device, said event count being output by said counter when said user enters said lottery information at an unrecorded time T, the time T being after the first time T_1 ;

reading, from said portable memory device by said data collection computer at a second time T_2 , a second count N_2 ~~associated with~~ output by said counter at said second time ~~timer~~;

¹ This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

storing ~~second timing data associated with said portable memory device~~, in said data collection computer, ~~the second timing data comprising the~~ said second count N_2 , a second frequency f_2 , a second period t_2 and the said second time T_2 ; and

determining the said time T said user entered said lottery information based on ~~(1) the count N_i , and (2) at least one of the first timing data and the second timing data~~ said event count, one of said period and said frequency, and one of (1) said first time and said first count, and (2) said second time and said second count.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of determining said time comprises:

determining said time said user entered said lottery information T to be equal to $T_2 - (N_2 - N_i)/f_2$ said second time minus a ratio of (1) said second count minus said event count, and (2) said frequency, wherein ~~the second~~ said frequency f_2 is determined by monitoring an output of ~~the timer~~ said counter of the said portable memory device for a predetermined period of time after the reading of the said second count N_2 .

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of determining said time comprises:

determining said time said user entered said lottery information T to be equal to $T_1 + (N_1 - N_i)/f_1$ said first time plus a ratio of (1) said event count minus said first count, and (2) said frequency, wherein ~~the first~~ said frequency f_1 is determined by monitoring an output of ~~the timer~~ said counter of the portable memory device for a predetermined period of time prior to the storing reading of the said first count timing data.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of determining said time comprises:

determining said time said user entered said lottery information T to be equal to $T2 - (N2 - N1) * t2$ said second time minus a product of (1) the second count minus said event count, and (2) said period.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of determining said time comprises:

determining said time said user entered said lottery information T to be equal to $T1 + (N1 - N1) * t1$ said first time plus a product of (1) said event count minus said first count, and (2) said period.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein said the second frequency f2 is set equal to $(N2 - N1) / (T2 - T1)$ a ratio of (1) said second count minus said first count, and (2) said second time minus said first time.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein said the second period t2 is set equal to $(T2 - T1) / (N2 - N1)$ a ratio of (1) said second time minus said first time, and (2) said second count minus said first count.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
adjusting said time said user entered said lottery information the time T by an error correction term equal to $Y * (T2 - T0)$, wherein Y is a frequency error term associated with the timer and T0 equals the time T determined in the determining step.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of storing of the first timing data said first count comprises:

storing a code number of said ~~timer~~ counter.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of storing of the first timing said first count comprises:

storing information relating to a drawing version, the drawing version comprising at least one of an event code and a monetary stake.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, further comprising:
checking a correctness of said information relating to a drawing version; and
generating, for incorrect information detected by the checking step, a signal for prohibiting recording of said incorrect information in said memory of said portable memory device.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising:
forming a game area that corresponds to a lottery event.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the game area corresponds to a Bingo lottery event.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the game area corresponds to a roulette game.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the forming step comprises:

forming the game area corresponding to a code of said lottery event.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, wherein the step of storing information relating to a drawing version comprises:

inputting, into said portable memory device, true information and conditions for determining a win.

52. (Currently Amended) A system for conducting a lottery, comprising:

an information source linked to participants of said lottery over a communications channel;

a portable memory device including an input-output unit, a timer configured to output timing data and count data, a memory, and a control unit, said portable memory device configured to record lottery information input by a participant of said lottery;

a data collection computer having an input-output interface, and configured to record timing data ~~associated with~~ output by said timer of said portable memory device and to determine a time of recording of said lottery information input by said participant based on the count data, the timing data, and one of a frequency and a period of said timer; and

~~a time-characteristics measuring device configured to measure data output by terminal~~ comprising time-characteristic measuring means for measuring said frequency and said period of said timer, wherein

an input of ~~the time-characteristics measuring device~~ said terminal is configured to be connected, via an input-output interface, to said timer of said portable memory device; and

an output of ~~the time-characteristics measuring device~~ said terminal is configured to be connected to said data collection computer.

53. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 52, wherein ~~the time-characteristics measuring device~~ said time-characteristics measuring means comprises a frequency meter.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 52, wherein said timer comprises at least one master oscillator coupled to inputs of a plurality of meters connected to said control unit.